

Message Text

PAGE 01 BANGKO 19358 141058Z

12

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 130991

R 140930Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9007

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

S E C R E T BANGKOK 19358

EXDIS

DEPT PASS CINCPAC, COMUSSAG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TH, PFOR, CB

SUBJ: GENERAL KRIANGSAK'S VISIT TO PHNOM PENH

REF: PHNOM PENH 13681

1. SUMMARY. GENERAL KRIANGSAK HAS TOLD EMBASSY GKR RAISED WITH HIM REQUEST FOR THAI AIR STRIKES IN NORTHWEST CAMBODIA DURING RECENT VISIT TO PHNOM PENH. THAI DASC IS TO BE MOVED TO PHNOM PENH. KRIANGSAK CAME AWAY WITH FAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF FANK IMPROVEMENT AND PROSPECTS FOR DEFENSE OF PHNOM PENH BUT SEES DANGERS IN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

2. GENERAL KRIANGSAK ON DECEMBER 13 REVIEWED WITH THE POMIL COUNSELOR IMPRESSIONS FROM HIS DECEMBER 4-6 VISIT TO PHNOM PENH ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

3. MILITARY SITUATION: KRIANGSAK SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY WHAT HE LEARNED TO FANK MILITARY CAPABILITY, WHICH HE THROUGHT CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS. HE DID NOT THINK PHNOM PENH WOULD FALL, BECAUSE FANK IS CAPABLE OF DEFENDING THE CAPITAL. HOWEVER, HE ANTICIPATED THE ENEMY WOULD ATTACK PROVINCIAL TOWNS AND MIGHT HAVE CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS. HE ALSO UNDERSTOOD THE KC
SECRET

PAGE 02 BANGKO 19358 141058Z

HAD ESTABLISHED LARGE SUPPLY DEPOTS IN NORTHWESTERN CAMBODIA IN THE BATTAMBANG REGION, WHERE THEY HAD ACCESS TO ALL THE SUPPLIES THEY NEEDED, INCLUDING THE CURRENT RICE HARVEST. HE ANTICIPATED THAT, RATHER THAN ATTACK PHNOM PENH, THE KC

MIGHT ATTACK BATTAMBANG AND TRY TO SECURE THE NORTHWESTERN RICE BOWL AREA, WHICH WOULD BE OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO THE RTG BECAUSE IT WOULD PUT THESE COMMUNIST FORCES ON THE THAI BORDER.

4. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION: HE CONSIDERED THAT THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS FACING LON NOL ARE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RATHER THAN MILITARY. HE NOTED WITH SOME SURPRISE THE DESIGNATION OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER LONG BORET AS PRIME MINISTER, SAYING THAT ON THE BASIS OF HIS TALKS IN PHNOM PENH HE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT LON NOL WOULD PICK CHENG HENG, SINCE SIRAK MATAK, WHOSE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPETENCE WAS HIGHLY REGARDED, IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE STUDENTS AND OTHER ELEMENTS. HE ANTICIPATED THERE WOULD BE DEMONSTRATIONS BY STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN PHNOM PENH THIS MONTH PROTESTING THE HIGH COST OF LIVING, THEIR LOWERED RELATIVE STATUS IN CAMBODIAN SOCIETY, THE LACK OF ADEQUATE WAGE INCREASES FOR TEACHERS, AND THE HIGH COST AND SCARCITIES IN SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND TEXT BOOKS; THESE DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST PROBLEMS FOR WHICH THE GKR HAS NO READY SOLUTION WOULD POSE GREAT DANGERS FOR THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT.

5. RELOCATION OF THAI DASC: KRIANGSAK AFFIRMED THAT THE THAI DIET AIR SUPPORT CENTER WOULD NOW BE MOVED FROM BATTAMBANG TO PHNOM PENH; ALTHOUGH THE PROPOSED ACCOMMODATIONS WERE NOT SATISFACTORY, HE HAD ACCEPTED OFFICE SPACE ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE EMG IN PHNOM PENH FOR THE DASC.

6. REQUEST FOR THAI INTERVENTION: KRIANGSAK SAID THE CAMBODIANS HAD ASKED FOR THAI ASSISTANCE TO DESTROY "A DAM NORTH OF SIEM REAP" AND THE 500TH LOGISTIC REGIMENT, THE DESIGNATION HE USED FOR THE KC SUPPORT ELEMENTS WHICH REPORTEDLY HAD STOCKPILED SUPPLIES OF ALL SORTS, INCLUDING CLOTHING AND AMMUNITION, IN THE BATTAMBANG AREA. HOWEVER, HE INDICATED THAT HE HAD NOT PRESENTED THESE REQUESTS TO THE THAI GOVERNMENT.

SECRET

PAGE 03 BANGKO 19358 141058Z

7. COMMENT: HE SEEMED TO ME SOMEWHAT DOUBTFUL THAT THE RTG WOULD BE PREPARED TO INTERVENE, DESPITE THE OBVIOUS THAI CONCERN, WHICH HE HAD EXPRESSED EARLIER, AT POSSIBLE KC INTENTIONS TO CONSOLIDATE CONTROL OF THE NORTHWESTERN PROVINCES BORDERING THAILAND.

8. THE RESERVOIR AND DAM NORTHWEST OF SIEM REAP SEEM UNLIKELY TARGETS. IT ALSO DOES NOT SEEM FEASIBLE FOR RTAF T-28 BOMBERS TO BE ASKED TO DESTROY KC STOCKPILES DISPERSED IN CAMBODIA. WE FIND IT INTERESTING THAT THESE SUGGESTIONS WERE APPARENTLY RAISED WITH KRIANGSAK, BUT WE CONDER WHETHER RESPONSIBLE GKR LEADERSHIP SERIOUSLY ANTICIPATES THAT SUCH AIR STRIKES WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO

THE RTG OR CONSIDERS ATTACKS ON THESE TARGETS THE MOST
USEFUL TYPE OF SUPPORT THEY SHOULD SEEK FROM THEIR THAI
NEIGHBORS AT THIS TIME.
KINTNER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CINCPAC, COMUSSAG.

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, VISITS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO19358
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750029-2015
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731256/abqcefnl.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: PHNOM PENH 13681
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <20-Nov-2001 by shawdg, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENERAL KRIANGSAK'S VISIT TO PHNOM PENH
TAGS: MARR, PEPR, TH, US, CB
To: STATE INFO PHNOM PENH
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005